

The Four-Hand Reel

Musical score for 'The Four-Hand Reel' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of eight staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The music is written in a single melodic line. The score includes bar numbers 3, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, and 29. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) throughout the piece. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

" 'The Four Hand Reel' as far as the writer is aware was first brought to Chicago in 1886 by Barney Delaney, an excellent Irish piper. So versatile was he, like most great Irish musicians, in the manipulation of his instrument, that he varied his tunes according to fancy without detriment to tone or rhythm, but rather to the advantage of the general effect. Although not included in any collection of Irish music published beyond the Atlantic, the strain must have been quite popular in the Eastern States, for we find the tune in a Boston publication no less than four times, and named respectively: 'Corporal Casey's Favorite', 'Lady Gardner's Reel', 'Parnell's Reel', and 'Yellow-Haired Laddie'; all consisting of but two parts each. The setting here presented was memorized from Delaney's playing, but no bare scoring of measured bars could do justice to his inimitable execution.

Since the foregoing was written I find that 'The Five Mile Chase' in R.M. Levey's 'Second Collection of the Dance Music of Ireland', London, 1873; consisting of but two parts, is also a variant of 'The Four Hand Reel'."

X:71
T:Four-Hand Reel, The
B:WSGM.207
F:file ID wsgm/071fhr
S:F.O'Neill
Z:Kinder/Black
N:This is aka "Five Mile Chase" (and lots of other names - see
the Chief's note below).
M:4/4
L:1/8
Q:180
R:Reel
K:G
(3DEF|G2 BG dGBG|FADA FADA|G2 BG dGBd|egfa gedB|
"5"G2 BG dGBG|FADA FADA|G2 BG dcBd|egfa g2||
(3def|"9"gdBd edBd|gdBd e2 ef|gdBd edBd|egfa g3 d|
"13"gabg efge|dedc BGBd|edef edBd|egfa gedB||
"17"G2 BG dcBG|(3FED AD BDAD|G2 BG dcBd|egfa gedB|
"21"G2 BG dcBG|(3FED AD BDAD|G2 BG dcBd|egfa g2||
(3def|"25"g2 gf gdBd|faag fdef|g2 gf gdBd|(3efg af g3 d|
"29"gabg efge|dedc BGBd|edef edBd|(3efg af gedB||

The Four-Hand Reel

file ID: onmi.reels/107fhr

X:107
T:Four-Hand Reel, The
S:Delaney
B:ONMI.1554 % A-B-C-A
C:file ID: onmi.reels/107fhr
Z:Brennan/Black
N:aka "Five Mile Chase"
R:reel
Q:180
M:C|
L:1/8
K:G
(3DEF|G2BG cGBG|FADA FADA|G2BG dGBd|egfa gedB|
G2BG dGBG|FADA FADA|G2BG dGBd|egfa g2g2||
gdBd edBd|gabg fdef|gdBd edBd|egfa g2g2|
gabg efge|dedc BGBd|efed edBd|egfa gedB|]

The Five Mile Chase (reel)

The Four Hand Reel

file ID levey.2/019fmc

The image shows a musical score for a four-hand reel. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first three staves show the main melody, and the fourth staff shows a variation labeled 'last time'. The music is written in a simple, rhythmic style typical of reels.

X:019

T:Five Mile Chase (reel), The

T:The Four Hand Reel

C:file ID levey.2/019fmc

B:Levey2.22

Q:180

L:1/8

M:4/4

R:reel

K:G

D|G2BG dGBG|FADA FADA|G2BG dgBd|egfa gedB|
G2BG dGBG|FADA FADA|G2BG dgBd|egfa g3 :|
g|gdBd gdBd|efge edBd|gdBd gdBd|egfa g3a|
gabg efge|dedc BABd|edef edBd|egfa gedB||\
"last time"G8|]

The Five Mile Chase (reel)

Four Hand Reel

file ID: mvbt2/067five_m



I included this in MVBT-1 because I wasn't aware at that time that it was in O'Neill's 1001 as "The Four Hand Reel". I never had the turn of this correct until Michael Tubridy wrote it out on a napkin for me at a ceili in Dublin years back!

X:67

T:Five Mile Chase (reel), The

T:Four Hand Reel

F:067five_m

Q:180

R:reel

M:4/4

L:1/8

K:G

**G2BG dGBG|FADA FADA|G2BG dGBG|egfa gedB|
G2 BG dGBG|FADA FADA|G2 BG dGBG|egfa g4||
gdBd edBd|gabg agef|gdBd edBd|egaf g3 f|
gabg efge|dedc BGBd|e2 eg edBd|egfa gedB|]**